

Two new species of *Urodacus* from Western Australia

Two new species of
burrowing scorpions
(Urodacidae: *Urodacus*) from
the Pilbara region of
Western Australia with
identical external
morphology[†]

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<https://scorpion.kkomodo.kr/pdfjs/web/viewer.html?file=https://scorpion.kkomodo.kr/attachments/5>



Fig.47. Recently collected male from Toweranna (close to Whim Creek Hotel), showing the natural yellow colouration of

Urodacus uncinus sp. nov. and U. lunatus sp. nov. that darkens into orange and reddish brown in the preserved specimens. The collection site is more consistent with the distribution of U. lunatus sp. nov., but the hemispermatophore of this male was not fully formed, and we hence refrain from assigning it to one of the species described here.

Been awhile since I have seen any taxonomic news from "down under", but now I can report about a recent work by Bruno Buzatto and co-workers where two new species of the genus *Urodacus* Peters, 1861 (Scorpionidae*) are described from Western Australia.

Urodacus lunatus Buzatto, Clark, Harvey & Volschenk, 2023

Urodacus uncinus Buzatto, Clark, Harvey & Volschenk, 2023

The two new species are very similar and can only be separated based on the morphology of their hemispermatophores. I expect that a study of this genus with molecular technology may reveal more hidden species in Australia.

* The placement of the genus *Urodacus* is unclear and the current authors have placed it in the family Urodacidae, which currently is not used in The Scorpion Files.

Abstract:

Two new species of urodacid scorpion are described from the Pilbara region in Western Australia, where they are both patchily distributed along creek lines in the north-east of the region. *Urodacus uncinus* sp. nov. and *Urodacus lunatus* sp. nov. are indistinguishable based on external morphology: adults are medium-sized, yellow burrowing scorpions with remarkable sexual dimorphism in the telson, in which males have a uniquely swollen vesicle and an aculeus that is more strongly curved than other known species of *Urodacus*. The species are superficially similar to *Urodacus similis* L.E. Koch, 1977 and *Urodacus yaschenkoi* Birula, 1903 in the morphology of the first four metasomal segments, which are extremely short and not much longer than high. The two new species can only be discerned from each other based on the morphology of their hemispermatophores, which highlights the extremely conserved morphology of species in the genus and suggests that many new species await description with careful examination of their genitalia.

Reference:

Buzatto B, Clark H, Harvey M, Volschenk E. Two new species of burrowing scorpions *Urodacus* (Scorpiones: Urodacidae) from the Pilbara region of Western Australia with identical external morphology. [Aust J Zool](#). [Open Access]

<https://scorpion-files.blogspot.com/2023/11/twp-new-species-of-urodacus-from.html>

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